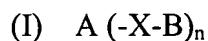


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula I



in which

- A is a hydrophilic, nonionic, linear or branched polymer with a molecular weight of from 5000 to 10 000 000 g/mol;
- B is a linear or branched polyethyleneimine (PEI) with a molecular weight of from 100 to 1 000 000 g/mol further comprising a moiety $[A^-]_w$, where A^- is an equivalent of an anion and w is an integer selected to balance the positive charges in the polyethyleneimine (PEI);
- X is a direct linkage of blocks A and B or a linker with the following structures whose C-terminal side is linked to a nitrogen atom of the PEI:
- OC(O)NH(CH₂)_oNHC(O)- with o = 1 to 20,
 - OC(O)NH(aryl)NHC(O)- with aryl = aromatic unit,
 - O(CH₂)_pC(O)- with p = 1 and 3 to 10,
 - OCH₂CH(OH)CH₂-
 - OC(O)-, or
 - O(CH₂)_q- with q = 1 to 20; and
- n is an integer from 1 to 200.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, in which

- A is a hydrophilic, nonionic, linear or branched polymer with a molecular weight of from 5000 to 100 000 g/mol;
- B is a linear or branched polyethyleneimine (PEI) with a molecular weight of from 400 to 100 000 g/mol further comprising a moiety $[A^-]_w$, where A^- is an equivalent of an anion and w is an integer selected to balance the positive charges in the polyethyleneimine (PEI);
- X is a direct linkage of blocks A and B or a linker with the following structures whose C-terminal side is linked to a nitrogen atom of the PEI:
- OC(O)NH(CH₂)_oNHC(O)- with o = 2 to 10,
 - OC(O)NH(aryl)NHC(O)- with aryl = aromatic unit with one nucleus,
 - O(CH₂)_pC(O)- with p = 1 and 3,
 - OCH₂CH(OH)CH₂-,
 - OC(O)-, or
 - O(CH₂)_q- with q = 1 to 6, and
- n is an integer from 1 to 50.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, in which

- A is a hydrophilic, nonionic, linear or branched polymer with a molecular weight of from 5000 to 50 000 g/mol;
- B is a linear or branched polyethyleneimine (PEI) with a molecular weight of from 400 to 50 000 g/mol further comprising a moiety $[A^-]_w$, where A^- is an equivalent of an anion and w is an integer selected to balance the positive charges in the polyethyleneimine (PEI);

X is a direct linkage of blocks A and B or a linker with the following structures whose C-terminal side is linked to a nitrogen atom of the PEI:

-OC(O)NH(CH₂)_oNHC(O)- with o = 4 to 6,

-OC(O)NH(aryl)NHC(O)- with aryl = tolyl,

-O(CH₂)_pC(O)- with p = 1,

-OCH₂CH(OH)CH₂-,

-OC(O)-, or

-O(CH₂)_q- with q = 1 to 3; and

n is an integer from 1 to 12.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, in which X is a linker of the formula -OC(O)NH(CH₂)_oNHC(O)-.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 1, which comprises

a) reacting compounds of the general formula V

(V) A-(OH)_n with A and n = as in formula I

with diisocyanate and reacting the compound resulting therefrom with polyethyleneimine

or

b) adding compounds of the general formula VI

(VI) A-(NH₂)_n (with A and n = as defined in formula I)

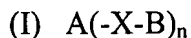
to the reaction mixture for the polymerization of ethyleneimine before the start of the polymerization or not until the polymerization is in progress, or

- c) employing compounds of the general formula VII

(VII) $A-(OS(O)_2R^4)_n$ with A as in formula I and R^4 = aliphatic or aromatic radical as macroinitiator for the polymerization of ethyleneimine.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of complexation of polynucleic acids in aqueous systems which comprises contacting a compound of the formula I



in which

- A is a hydrophilic, nonionic, linear or branched polymer with a molecular weight of from 5000 to 10 000 000 g/mol;
- B is a linear or branched polyethyleneimine (PEI) with a molecular weight of from 100 to 1 000 000 g/mol further comprising a moiety $[A^-]_w$ where A^- is an equivalent of an anion and w is an integer selected to balance the positive charges in the polyethyleneimine (PEI);
- X is a direct linkage of blocks A and B or a linker with the following structures whose C-terminal side is linked to a nitrogen atom of the PEI:
- OC(O)NH(CH₂)_oNHC(O)- with o = 1 to 20,
- OC(O)NH(aryl)NHC(O)- with aryl = aromatic unit,

-O(CH₂)_pC(O)- with p = 1 and 3 to 10,
-OCH₂CH(OH)CH₂-
-OC(O)-, or
-O(CH₂)_q- with q = 1 to 20; and
n is an integer from 1 to 200 with a polynucleic acid.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein a compound of the formula I, in which

- A is a hydrophilic, nonionic, linear or branched polymer with a molecular weight of from 5000 to 100 000 g/mol;
- B is a linear or branched polyethyleneimine (PEI) with a molecular weight of from 400 to 100 000 g/mol further comprising a moiety [A⁻]_w, where A⁻ is an equivalent of an anion and w is an integer selected to balance the positive charges in the polyethyleneimine (PEI);
- X is a direct linkage of blocks A and B or a linker with the following structures whose C-terminal side is linked to a nitrogen atom of the PEI:
-OC(O)NH(CH₂)_oNHC(O)- with o = 2 to 10,
-OC(O)NH(aryl)NHC(O)- with aryl = aromatic unit with one nucleus,
-O(CH₂)_pC(O)- with p = 1 and 3,
-OCH₂CH(OH)CH₂-,
-OC(O)-, or
-O(CH₂)_q- with q = 1 to 6, and
n is an integer from 1 to 50 is used.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein a compound of the formula I, in which

- A is a hydrophilic, nonionic, linear or branched polymer with a molecular weight of from 5000 to 50 000 g/mol;

- B is a linear or branched polyethyleneimine (PEI) with a molecular weight of from 400 to 50 000 g/mol;
further comprising a moiety $[A^-]_w$ where A^- is an equivalent of an anion and w is an integer selected to balance the positive charges in the polyethyleneimine(PEI);
- X is a direct linkage of blocks A and B or a linker with the following structures whose C-terminal side is linked to a nitrogen atom of the PEI:
- OC(O)NH(CH₂)_oNHC(O)- with o = 4 to 6,
 - OC(O)NH(aryl)NHC(O)- with aryl = tolyl,
 - O(CH₂)_pC(O)- with p = 1,
 - OCH₂CH(OH)CH₂-,
 - OC(O)-, or
 - O(CH₂)_q with q = 1 to 3; and
- n is an integer from 1 to 12 is used.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the polynucleic acid is DNA.

14. (Canceled) Please cancel Claim 14.

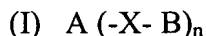
15. (Canceled) Please cancel Claim 15.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of complexation of DNA in aqueous systems which comprises contacting a compound of the formula I

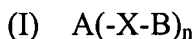


in which

- A is a hydrophilic, nonionic, linear or branched polymer with a molecular weight of from 5000 to 10 000 000 g/mol;
- B is a linear or branched polyethyleneimine (PEI) with a molecular weight of from 100 to 1 000 000 g/mol further comprising a moiety $[A^-]_w$ where $[A^-]$ is an equivalent of an anion and w is an integer selected to balance the positive charges in the polyethyleneimine (PEI);
- X is a direct linkage of blocks A and B or a linker with the following structures whose C-terminal side is linked to a nitrogen atom of the PEI:
- OC(O)NH(CH₂)_oNHC(O)- with $o = 1$ to 20,
 - OC(O)NH(aryl)NHC(O)- with aryl = aromatic unit,
 - O(CH₂)_pC(O)- with $p = 1$ and 3 to 10,
 - OCH₂CH(OH)CH₂-
 - OC(O)-, or
 - O(CH₂)_q- with $q = 1$ to 20; and
- n is an integer from 1 to 200;
- with DNA.

20. (Currently Amended) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic, nonionic, branched polymer is a cyclic, star, dendritic, 4-arm, 8-arm, 13-arm, 18-arm or ~~20-arm~~ 24-arm polyethylene glycol polymer.
21. (Currently Amended) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic, nonionic, branched polymer is an 8-arm, 13-arm, 18-arm or ~~20-arm~~ 24-arm polyethylene glycol polymer.

22. (Previously Presented) A complex comprising
(i) a compound of the formula I



in which

- A is a hydrophilic, non-ionic, branched polyethylene glycol with a molecular weight of from 5000 to 10 000 000 g/mol having 4 or 8 arms or being star-shaped or in a form of a cyclodextrin;
- B is a linear or branched polyethyleneimine (PEI) residue with a molecular weight of from 100 to 1 000 000 g/mol further comprising a moiety $[A^-]_w$, where A^- is an equivalent of an anion and w is an integer selected to balance the positive charges in the polyethyleneimine (PEI);
- X is $-OC(O)NH(CH_2)_oNHC(O)-$ with o = 1 to 20, and

(ii) polynucleic acid.

23. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein A^- is selected from OH^- , Cl^- or Br^- .
24. (Previously Presented) A surfactant comprising a compound according to Claim 1.